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Patent Attorney At Law

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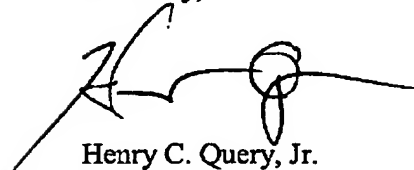
TO:	FROM:
Examiner David P. Bryant	Henry C. Query, Jr.
COMPANY:	DATE:
USPTO - Group Art Unit 3726	April 20, 2006
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SUBJECT:	
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/698,771	
Inventor(s): Bartlett	
Filed: 10/31/2003	
For: Vacuum Assisted Seal Engagement for ROV Deployed Equipment	
Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P103	

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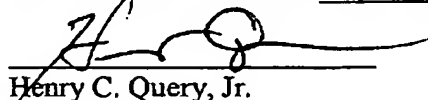
Dear Examiner Bryant:

Enclosed in connection with the above-referenced application is a Response to Restriction Requirement, which is responsive to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006.

Sincerely,

  
Henry C. Query, Jr.**Certificate of Facsimile Transmission Under 37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence, consisting of 3 total pages, is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 20, 2006.

  
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Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P103

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bartlett	)	
	)	
Serial No.: 10/698,771	)	Group Art Unit: 3726
	)	
Filed: 10/31/2003	)	Examiner: D. Bryant
	)	
For: Vacuum Assisted Seal Engagement	)	
for ROV Deployed Equipment	)	

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response to Restriction Requirement

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that this application contains two patentably distinct species of invention: claims 1-13 for a method for attaching first and second components, which is classified in class 29, subclass 428, and claims 14-49 for an apparatus for attaching first and second components, which is classified in class 166, subclass 342. The Examiner has therefore issued a requirement that the application be restricted to a single invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses this requirement. Other than the fact that claim 1 is a method claim and claim 14 is an apparatus claim, the only significant difference between these claims is the recitation in claim 14 of a fluid conduit by

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which the bore pressure within the bore may be reduced. However, this difference does not make the inventions recited in claims 1 and 14 distinct. Rather, claim 14 can be considered to be analogous to a species of the invention recited in claims 1. Therefore, applicant submits that the inventions of claims 1 and 14 are sufficiently similar so as to obviate restriction.

However, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects the invention of claims 14-49 on which to continue the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 20, 2006